

CHESS

by Alan Dommert

DIAGRAM 1

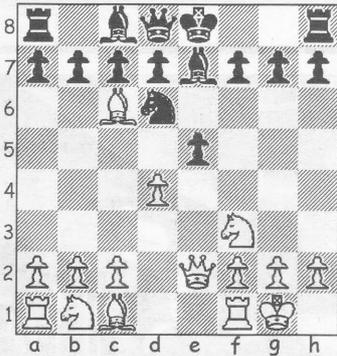
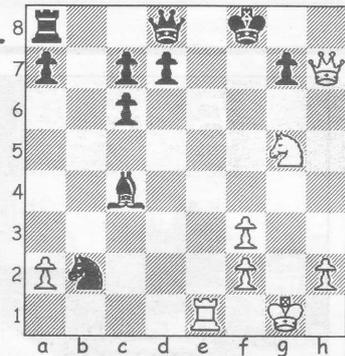


DIAGRAM 2



The first Dorset Junior tournament for three years was held at the beginning of the month at Pelhams, Kinson Community Centre, and despite atrocious weather conditions the event attracted a creditable entry of thirty five players.

The Dorset junior championship and Under-16 title was won by Jamie Macdonald (Gillingham School), a year-7 group player who beat a number of boys much older than himself on his way to compiling a magnificent 6/6 score to finish a point ahead of runner-up Rhys Dawes (BS Boys).

The Under-14 and Under-12 trophy winners were Max Staveley (New Milton) and Jake Munro (Shaftesbury), both with 4/6 scores, and, as all three title holders were eligible for the Under-12 trophy, it is encouraging that they should be contesting these age groups for several years to come.

Medals were also given out to the first three in each year group, resulting in 24 medals being presented together with a team prize of five chess sets for overall performance, which was won by Abbey School.

The following game, taken from the currently-held London Classic, features a battle between two of England's leading GMs and on this occasion the highest rated defeats the youngest with a novelty and some adventurous follow-up play.

Adams, M – Howell, D

2nd London Chess Classic, 2010
Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defence (C67)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Be7 The main line alternative is 5...Nd6, made popular by Vladimir Kramnik in 2000 when he put it to such good use to take the world

title from Garry Kasparov. 6.Qe2 Nd6 7.Bxc6 (Diag 1) bxc6 In Huebner-Vogel (Bundesliga, 1986) Black tried 7...dxc6? and soon regretted it, after 8.dxe5 Nf5 9.Rd1 Bd7 10.e6! fxe6 11.Ne5 Bd6 12.Qh5+ g6 13.Nxg6 led to a quick defeat in 22 moves. 8.dxe5 Nb7 9.c4 0-0 10.Nc3 f6 Black takes the opportunity to open the f-file and White responds by strengthening his grip on the neighbouring one. 11.Re1 fxe5 12.Qxe5 Bf6 13.Qg3!? A new move in this position, 13. Qh5 having previously been a preferred option. 13...Nc5 14.Bg5 Nd3 15.Re3! Post-match analysis confirmed Black had originally anticipated a straightforward 15 Re2 defence of the b-pawn, thereby missing the subtle pawn sacrifice he is now forced to take on.

15...Nxb2 16.Rae1 Bxg5?! 17.Nxg5 Qf6 Black must give his queen some air before 18.Re7 stifles her completely. 18.Rf3 Qd8 19.Nce4 Eyeing further sacrificial possibilities, but White is spoilt for choice of good moves here and 19.Qe5 is just as powerful due to 19...Nxc4? 20.Rxf8+ Qxf8 21.Qe4! threatening both the knight and mate at h7. 19...Ba6 20.Nxh7! Rxf3 21.gxf3 Kxh7 22.Ng5+ Kg8 23.Qh4 Bxc4 Black realises that the c-pawn can be taken, as his bishop can interpose to prevent a back rank mate, but White has seen further... 24.Qh7+ Kf8 (Diag 2) 25.Re5! ...with his rook being brought into play at precisely the right moment to close a mating net. 25...Be6 26.Qh8+ Ke7 27.Qxg7+ Kd6 28.Ne4 mate.

● Any enquiries regarding the Chess column should be addressed to Alan Dommert by emailing a.j.dommert@btinternet.com